

Preston Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1965

Preston Rural District Council



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Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire C.C. Health Division 4.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

N. T. W. POVER, L.M.S.S.A., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.

Other Public Appointments :

Senior Assistant Division Medical Officer Lancashire C.C., Health Division 4.
and Deputy M.O.H. to the Local Authorities mentioned above.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

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Additional Public Health Inspectors :

I. SHEPHERD, M.A.P.H.I.
B. J. KIRKHAM, M.A.P.H.I.
W. J. HOLDEN, M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector :

J. COWBURN

Chief Administrative Officer :

R. SAUNDERS

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	5
METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS	8
PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE AREA	12
GENERAL STATISTICS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
NEW LEGISLATION	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
WATER SUPPLIES	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
HOUSING	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
SEWAGE DISPOSAL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
FACTORIES ACT (ANNUAL REPORT)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42

Public Health Department,
Guildhall Street,
Preston.

**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1965.**

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Eighty-sixth Annual Report of the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Preston Rural District in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1965, together with the vital statistics relative to that period.

The estimated population of the Rural District as at the middle of the year, according to the Registrar General, was 47,190 or 1,220 greater than for the previous year. Immigration continued to be the principal contributory factor, the excess of live births over deaths accounting for only one-seventh of the population growth. It is true, however, that 1965 was the seventh successive year in which a natural increase in the population has taken place. Since the 1961 Census, the estimated home population has risen by 3,687 while, during the same period, the resident population of Whittingham Hospital has declined from 2,850 to 2,300.

Numerically, all records continue to be broken in connection with recorded live births, the total figure of 808 being 24 above the record level of the previous year. The corresponding crude birth-rate, however, remained constant at 17·1 per 1,000 population. The adjusted rate, which is comparable with the country as a whole, was slightly higher than the national rate. It is also pleasing to record a small decline in the number of illegitimate live births. Though mortality from all causes rose numerically by 12, the crude death-rate at 13·7 per 1,000 population was down by 0·1 and the adjusted rate was less than the national rate by 1·1. Of the total number of recorded deaths, 32 per cent. occurred amongst the elderly inmates of Whittingham Hospital. The order of importance of the principal constituent causes of mortality shows little change; heart disease, vascular lesions of the nervous system and cancer in that order, accounting for about 70 per cent. of the total deaths. There was, however, a slight decline in mortality from cancer and also pneumonia and bronchitis.

Other pleasing features of the vital statistics were a relatively low infant mortality figure (comparable with the national average), the absence of maternal mortality, and only three deaths being recorded as due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

A particular aspect of mortality, which is receiving more and more attention these days is that brought about by cancer of the cervix, which kills over 2,500 women each year. Although this is a relatively small number compared with the overall mortality of cancers, the disease lends itself to prevention and to pre-invasion surgical procedures which would make severe inroads on the total death roll. The

Family Planning Associations, though there are too few, are playing a major part in this work, but the funds and facilities available make it inevitable that only a small percentage of women of child-bearing age can be dealt with. The service for smear tests for pre-cancer of the neck of the womb is one which meets with varying support in different parts of the country, but the main difficulty in establishing standard centres throughout all regional hospital board areas is the overwhelming lack of trained technicians. Until the number undergoing training is vastly increased, it is not to be expected that any really wide scale extension of the scheme, necessary though it is, will be effected. It is to be hoped that the efforts of local health authorities and regional hospital boards will not be frustrated through a wrong emphasis being put on the small numbers involved in a consideration of mortality.

The overall incidence of infectious disease was low compared with recent years, principally due to a substantial decline in notified cases of measles, and calls for no special comment, except to refer to a single case of Acute Poliomyelitis of the paralytic type which occurred at Ribchester. This case formed part of an outbreak of the disease in the neighbouring town of Blackburn. The patient, a young lady aged 20, resided in Ribchester but worked for a Blackburn Engineering firm. It transpired that she had been taken ill at work and immediately admitted to hospital, where, on the following day, the infection was confirmed. The parents of the patient owned a fish and chip shop and catering establishment and, following their daughter's admission to hospital, they agreed to close down the business premises until further notice. As a result they remained closed for two weeks. The proprietors were fully acquainted with their right to claim compensation but, nevertheless, I wish to record my appreciation of their public-spirited co-operation. A claim, amounting to £28, which included a sum to cover the loss of perishable foods, was received and duly paid.

As a result of the "Polio" outbreak in Blackburn there was a sudden increased demand for vaccination against the disease and extra sessions were held at clinics in the Rural District to cope with the rush.

During 1965 the staff of the Department were, to say the least, extremely active undertaking work covering all aspects of environmental public health, and comprehensive statements on the various functions are included in the text of the Report. In addition to the day to day routine work, special requests for assistance or advice are very often received. As an example, a letter came from the Hon. Secretary of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints' Church, New Longton, indicating that at a recent meeting the Church Council had decided to proceed with the establishment of a burial ground at the rear of their newly-built church. After visiting the site I prepared a report on the public health aspect of the proposal and, whilst no objections could be raised against the establishment of a burial ground, certain recommendations were made to prevent the possible pollution of an adjacent watercourse, which the Church Council readily accepted.

The Minister of Housing and Local Government is, at present, exerting pressure upon local authorities in "black areas" to accelerate their programmes of smoke control, and from the aspect of environmental public health it is impossible to object to the wisdom of this policy. The next logical step is for the Government to instruct local authorities on the fringe of the "black areas" to prepare smoke control plans to cover those urban localities from which smoke drifts over the smokeless zones of the neighbouring towns. The Minister initially, and very wisely, pointed out that the establishment of smoke control areas would necessarily be gradual with progress governed by the supply of smokeless fuels, the rate at which appliances could be converted or replaced, and the rate at which local authorities

were able to formulate and carry through their smoke control plans. Too often, this logical beginning has been made an excuse to do nothing at all, and the Minister's recent sharp reminder of the need for the continued vigorous implementation of the Clear Air Act is most welcome to those public officials who hold a vested interest in the continuing improvement of the environmental circumstances of the resident population.

A continuing problem is the infection of raw milk by the organism "Brucella Abortus," which is responsible for contagious abortion in cattle and undulant fever in man. Much time and effort was devoted to this subject during the year under review, and all practicable steps were taken to protect the general public. I am firmly of the opinion that all milk supplies should be adequately heat treated before being retailed for human consumption to ensure that all pathogenic organisms are eliminated, but this, of course, would only be supplementary to a Government scheme for the complete eradication of Brucellosis.

This introduction deals chiefly with statistical data, and a true appraisal of the amount and diversity of the work of the Department can only be made by references to the various sections of the Report. The section "Inspection and Supervision of Food" contains the prescribed information referred to in paragraph 8(c) of Circular No. 1/66 issued by the Ministry of Health on 11th January, 1966.

In conclusion, I gratefully acknowledge the support of members of the Public Health Committee, the valuable collaboration received from Mr. Young and Mr. Baxter, and the efficient manner in which the Officers of the Department carried out their varied duties.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

for the year 1965.

With the kind permission of Dr. V. Barocas, Director of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory, Moor Park, Preston, I submit extracts from his report on meteorological conditions which prevailed during 1965.

When considering the weather for Preston in 1965 we find that, although as a whole the mean temperature for the year was only one degree lower than the average, many of the individual months were rather cold. The rainfall for the year was above average and this was due mostly to the wet December which we experienced. No records were broken either with respect to temperature or to amount of rainfall. The most unusual events were the short warm spell in March and the early onset of snow and cold weather in November.

The total rainfall for the year was 39.88 inches. This value is 2.17 inches higher than the average and it was the first time since 1961 that the total rainfall for the year was more than average. The distribution of rainfall in the various seasons followed a different pattern from the general tendency. In Preston the driest season is the Spring and the wettest the Summer. This year, however, although the Summer was again the wettest season, the driest season was the Winter.

The amount of rainfall for each season expressed as a percentage of the total and compared both with 1961 and with the average for Preston is as follows:

	1965	1961	Average
	%	%	%
Winter	17.0	22.8	21.5
Spring	20.3	19.4	19.1
Summer	32.3	30.8	29.8
Autumn	30.4	27.0	29.6

Only Winter was drier than average, all the other seasons being wetter than normal. Yet when the individual months are considered we find that, were it not for the very wet month of December, the year 1965 would have been drier than average. Nevertheless, the heavy rain of December did not make much difference to the general distribution of rainfall through the seasons and Autumn would still have followed the Summer as a wet season.

As it has already been mentioned, in Preston normally the Spring is the driest season but for the last three years, namely, 1963, 1964 and 1965, the driest season has been the Winter, and the Spring, for the last five years, has been wetter than average. In 1965 we experienced the wettest Autumn since 1961.

When we consider the rainfall for each month separately we find that six months of the year, namely January, April, May, June, September and December, were wetter than average, and that the remaining six months were drier than average. In many cases, however, the differences from the average were very small.

February was the driest month of the year and for the third consecutive year the total amount of rain for this month was below 1 inch.

The wettest month of the year was December with a total rainfall of 6.82 inches. This was the wettest December since 1951.

On the whole the year had not many days of heavy rain but rather a greater number of days with light and more continuous rain. In 1965 we recorded 207 rain-days against an average of 196, but of these, only 155 were classified as wet days against the average of 154.

The wettest day of the year was September 25th, when 1.03 inches of rain was recorded. Only on one other day in the whole year did the rainfall amount exceed 1 inch and that was on January 9th.

One absolute drought was recorded at the beginning of the year lasting from January 24th to February 9th, while at the end of the year, from December 1st to December 19th, we had a rain spell, that is a period during which rain was recorded every day. Indeed, in December, it rained on 28 out of the 31 days and 23 of these were classified as wet days, that is with amount of rain of 0.04 inch or more. In October, on the other hand, between October 4th and October 27th, only 0.28 inch of rain was recorded, 0.23 inch being recorded on October 14th and 0.05 on October 15th.

Snow or sleet occurred in January, February, March, November, December and even in April. It was more frequent than in the previous year occurring on 30 days as against 14 days in 1964, but in most cases the amount was very small. Only on eight days, five of which occurred in March, did the snow cover the ground, the greatest depth being 3 inches early in March.

The first snow of the Winter was early this year, and fell on November 16th and again in the last few days of the month giving rise to a short cold spell. Of the other forms of precipitation, hail was recorded on 18 days and heavy squally showers occurred in December. Thunderstorms were not only limited to the Summer months but were recorded in January and in November as well.

The relative humidity for the whole of the year was a little above average, only May and June being below 80%. Dry air was recorded on two occasions, both of them in May. On May 13th the relative humidity at 09.00 G.M.T. was only 49%. On the other hand, 100% relative humidity was recorded on four days, one day each in January, March, April and November.

Visibility throughout 1965 was mainly moderate but fog at 09.00 G.M.T. was recorded on 38 days, in most cases the fog being moderate, but on three occasions fog was classified as dense. Excellent visibility was recorded on eight days.

Soft rime was recorded on six occasions, three in January, one in February and two in December, while glaze was recorded only once, in January.

The average temperature for 1965 was 47.8° F, only one degree lower than the average for Preston. This, however, does not convey a real picture of the year since ten of the months had average temperatures lower than normal. May and October were the only two months of the year warmer than average. In October the mean temperature was 2.8°F higher than normal, but in November the mean temperature was 4.2°F lower than normal. Another comparatively cold monthly was July with a mean temperature 4.1°F below average.

Normally, the warmest month of the year in Preston is July. This year, however, August, which was nearly 2°F colder than normal, was the warmest month.

The coldest month, as is generally the case in this area, was January.

Extremes of temperature for the whole year ranged from the warmest day, August 12th, with a maximum temperature of 77.4°F to the coldest day, March 2nd, with a minimum of 14.9°F. In neither case were these unusual temperatures for Preston, where high temperatures in the eighties are rather exceptional.

With regard to temperature, an unusual event occurred on March 29th when a maximum temperature of 72.4°F was recorded, followed by a few days with the temperature in the sixties.

Only on one occasion during the year, on December 28th, was the maximum temperature below freezing during the whole day, the maximum for the day being 29.1°F. The lowest grass minimum was 1°F and was recorded on March 2nd.

Ground frost occurred on 93 nights, the only months free of ground frost being June and July. Air frost occurred on 60 days with one day being as late in the year as May 19th, only a few days after a maximum of 77°F had been recorded.

Barometric pressure was rather high in February and October and low in December. The lowest value was actually reached on November 29th.

Winds throughout the year were generally light, but strong winds were recorded at 09.00 G.M.T. in January, March and November. Only three gales were recorded during the year, none of them causing serious damage. In 1965 the winds tended to be of a more westerly direction than in the last two years.

The Moor Park pond was frozen on 38 days.

The optical phenomena observed during 1965 consisted of 9 solar and 3 lunar halos ; 2 solar and 9 lunar coronæ ; 9 rainbows and one double rainbow.

Some of the meteorological observations for 1965 are summarised in the tables which follow:

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE

Month	Highest Maximum			Lowest Minimum			Lowest Maximum			Highest Minimum					
	Temp. °F		Date	Temp. °F		Date	Temp. °F		Date	Temp. °F		Date			
January	52	...	16	...	19	...	4	...	35	...	3	...	46	...	11
February	48	...	16	...	24	...	3	...	35	...	3	...	41	...	12
March	72	...	29	...	15	...	2	...	34	...	1	...	45	...	16
April	64	...	1	...	30	...	21	...	48	...	20	...	46	...	17
May	77	...	13	...	31	...	19	...	49	...	18	...	53	...	13
June	73	...	10	...	40	...	3	...	61	...	6	...	56	...	15
July	70	...	19	...	40	...	8	...	57	...	14	...	57	...	13
August	77	...	12	...	39	...	27	...	59	...	30	...	59	...	12
September	67	...	21	...	38	...	1	...	52	...	8	...	57	...	16
October	72	...	5	...	35	...	16	...	53	...	24	...	55	...	28
November	55	...	8	...	22	...15, 22, 23...			38	...	15	...	47	...	8
December	53	...	17	...	19	...	28	...	33	...	27	...	45	...	16
Year	77.4		Aug. 12		14.9		March 2		33.2		Dec. 27		38.7		Aug. 12

RAINFALL AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Month	Total Rainfall inches	Difference		No. of Days				Wettest Days			Vapour Pressure in mbs.	Relative Humidity % satur.			
		from Average inches		Rain Days	Wet Days		Fall inch	Date							
January	4.38	...	+1.13	...	15	...	14	...	1.01	...	9	...	6.6	...	87.5
February	0.55	...	−1.86	...	8	...	3	...	0.31	...	28	...	6.6	...	86.5
March	1.87	...	−0.43	...	15	...	10	...	0.33	...	22	...	7.0	...	82.8
April	2.55	...	+0.41	...	22	...	15	...	0.62	...	9	...	8.4	...	80.0
May	2.83	...	+0.32	...	16	...	12	...	0.71	...	8	...	10.3	...	75.7
June	2.70	...	+0.05	...	14	...	13	...	0.83	...	21	...	13.2	...	79.3
July	3.38	...	−0.08	...	21	...	15	...	0.76	...	28	...	12.7	...	80.3
August	3.88	...	−0.36	...	20	...	14	...	0.90	...	24	...	13.6	...	81.3
September	5.63	...	+2.03	...	21	...	15	...	1.03	...	25	...	12.3	...	85.7
October	2.16	...	−1.69	...	11	...	10	...	0.67	...	31	...	11.1	...	86.1
November	3.13	...	−0.48	...	16	...	11	...	0.69	...	24	...	7.2	...	87.0
December	6.82	...	+3.14	...	28	...	23	...	0.87	...	8	...	7.7	...	93.4
Year	39.88		+2.17	...	207	...	155	...	1.03		Sept. 25		9.7	...	83.8

VISIBILITY AT 09.00 G.M.T.

Number of Days

Month	Dense Fog		Thick Fog		Fog		Mod. Fog		Mist or Haze		Poor Visi- bility		Mod. Visi- bility		Good Visi- bility		Very Good Vis.		Excel. Visi- bility	
January	2	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	4	...	8	...	10	...	2	...	1	...	0	
February	0	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	7	...	12	...	1	...	1	...	0	
March	0	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	7	...	11	...	9	...	1	...	1	...	0	
April	0	...	0	...	1	...	3	...	3	...	7	...	7	...	6	...	3	...	0	
May	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	9	...	13	...	3	...	4	...	0	
June	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	5	...	16	...	7	...	1	...	0	
July	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	5	...	14	...	9	...	2	...	0	
August	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	3	...	5	...	10	...	10	...	2	...	0	
September	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	1	...	17	...	5	...	4	...	2	...	0	
October	0	...	0	...	1	...	4	...	6	...	12	...	3	...	5	...	0	...	0	
November	0	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	1	...	5	...	9	...	8	...	2	...	0	
December	1	...	0	...	0	...	9	...	3	...	10	...	5	...	1	...	2	...	0	
Year	3	...	2	...	6	...	27	...	35	...	101	...	113	...	57	...	21	...	0	

WEATHER

Number of Days

Month	Snow or Sleet	Snow Lying at 0900 G.M.T.	Hail	Thunder Heard	Fog at 0900 G.M.T.	Gale Wind- force 8 or above	Ground Frost	Air Frost							
January	7	...	2	...	6	...	1	...	16	...	16				
February	6	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	11	...	10				
March	6	...	5	...	1	...	0	...	16	...	10				
April	1	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	9	...	1				
May	0	...	0	...	2	...	2	...	3	...	1				
June	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0				
July	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	0				
August	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	0				
September	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	0				
October	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	4	...	0				
November	7	...	1	...	3	...	2	...	17	...	11				
December	3	...	0	...	3	...	0	...	15	...	11				
Year	30	...	8	...	18	...	11	...	38	...	3	...	93	...	60

Physical Features of the Area

The Rural District is largely a lowland area, mainly below 250 feet, lying largely to the north of the River Ribble, but with considerable extensions south of the river, south-west and east of Preston. In the extreme north of the district the land rises rapidly to 874 feet at Beacon Fell, and in the east, heights of over a thousand feet are attained on the southern slopes of Longridge Fell. North of Preston the drainage is largely eastwards to the River Wyre, while the rest of the district drains directly or indirectly into the Ribble.

The solid geological formations represented in the district are the Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Bunter Sandstone and Keuper Marl. These formations are rarely seen at the surface, however, because they are buried beneath a thick cover of "drift" deposits. Apart from the valley alluvium of the rivers and streams and the raised terraces, along the Ribble and Darwen, the "drift" is composed of glacial boulder clay, sand and gravel.

The latter occur only as impersistent patches on the boulder clay, such as that to the north-east of Goosnargh, or is exposed in the sides of the many stream valleys. Boulder clay covers most of the district, and in general gives rise to a heavy clay soil. The numerous marl pits which were dug many years ago to obtain material to lighten the soil are a characteristic feature of boulder clay areas. The heavy clay soils provide excellent pastures which support dairy herds, and arable farming is of less importance. Poultry farming is widespread, as it is throughout the whole of the Fylde area.

The solid rocks have little effect on the physical features of the area because of the thick drift cover. Over much of the area this thick cover renders it impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the nature and structure of the underlying rocks, unless borings are undertaken. In the extreme north and east of the district, however, the solid formations outcrop at the surface. These outcrops belong to the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit formations. The former is the oldest formation represented in the district, but here it does not carry the massive limestone beds so characteristic of other areas, e.g., Clitheroe. It is composed of a thick series of shales with thin limestones, the Worston Shales and the Pendleside Limestone series which underlie the greater part of the parishes of Goosnargh, Whittingham and Houghton. Towards the top of the latter there is a rather thicker limestone bed, the Pendleside Limestone, which occurs on the northern flanks of Longridge Fell. The top of the Carboniferous Limestone is formed by the Lower Bowland Shales, which contain a fairly characteristic grit band, the Pendleside Grit. These occur on Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell. The Millstone Grit is represented by a series of grits and shales. The lowest beds are the Upper Bowland Shales, which are succeeded by the massive Pendle Grit. This latter forms the conspicuous feature of Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell, and, together with the overlying shales and grits, underlie the parishes of Hothersall, Ribchester and Dutton. Millstone Grit shales and grits are present beneath the "drift" in the southern part of the parish of Samlesbury, and the north-east part of Grimsargh parish. The grits in this area have not been tried as a source of water supply, so the potentiality of water bores is not known. Results from boring in grits vary considerably according to the nature of the grit and its openness of grain and extent of the jointing and fissuring.

West of the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit occurs the Triassic Bunter Sandstone, a fairly hard red, yellow or buff-coloured sandstone. The details of structure and the position of faults are only assumed, but the following picture has been obtained by the study of available bore records. The Bunter Sandstone is faulted against or overlies the most steeply dipping Carboniferous Limestone shales, and the Millstone Grit to the east and south-east. The sandstone dips gently to the north-west, and occurs beneath the "drift" in the parishes of Barton, Woodplumpton, Lea, Hutton, Penwortham, Cuerdale, the south-west part of the parish of Grimsargh, and the north-west part of Samlesbury parish. It is affected by strong faults, the exact positions of which are difficult to determine.

Keuper Marl, thinly bedded, fine grained red marls with bands and patches of green-coloured marls and thin bands of fine grained sandstone or "skerries," are present beneath the boulder clay in the parishes of Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole and Farington. The beds dip north-westwards and are separated from the Bunter Sandstone to the north by a fault. Borings in Keuper Marl give little or no water, and that which is obtained is too highly mineralised to be of use for public supply.

General Statistics

STATISTICS AND GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

- (1) Area in acres—49,754.
- (2) Population (Census 1961)—43,503.
- (3) Registrar-General's estimate of home population, 1965—47,190.
- (4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1961)—13,294.
- (5) Number of inhabited houses end of 1965, according to Rate Book—15,320.
- (6) Rateable value, 31st March, 1965—£1,618,330.
- (7) Sum represented by a penny rate—£6,486 (31st March, 1965).

The Rural District, which is mainly agricultural, consists chiefly of pleasant undulating country, dotted here and there with patches of woodland, and watered by innumerable brooks.

Dairy farming, poultry farming, market gardening, cotton manufacture, paper manufacture and engineering comprise the main industries. The employment available is of a healthy character, and there was little evidence of unemployment among the inhabitants of the district in 1965.

There are facilities for religious worship, according to denomination, throughout the district, and several parishes have Village Halls and/or Women's Institutes. In addition, there are clubs based upon religious, political or recreational groups, and in these places, particularly in the winter months, lectures, concerts, dramatic society meetings, plays, debates and dances are held.

Golf courses are situated at Penwortham and Lea. There are cricket grounds at Broughton, New Longton, Penwortham and Whittingham. Facilities for tennis, football and bowls are available, and Playing Fields have been provided by the Rural District Council in practically all parishes.

There are 39 schools in the area, providing facilities for both primary and secondary education, and the Lancashire County Council provides branches of the County Library mostly in schools and village halls throughout the district.

POPULATION OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

The Registrar-General's estimate of home population of the Rural District as at 30th June, 1965, was 47,190, an increase of 1,220 compared with the estimate of 45,970 for the previous year.

Estimates of home population include members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and merchant seamen, whether at home or overseas, but exclude members of the Armed Forces stationed outside England and Wales, and non-civilians of foreign countries, Dominions, etc., temporarily in the country.

The natural increase in the population of the Rural District was 163, the seventh time such an increase has taken place since all deaths occurring in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution have had to be accepted (i.e., 1st January, 1954). Ignoring these deaths, the natural increase in the population was 369. The number of persons per acre was 0·94 and the number of acres per person 1·05.

VITAL STATISTICS

PERIOD		DEATHS (all causes)		LIVE BIRTHS		STILL- BIRTHS		LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS TOTAL	INFANT MORTALITY					NEO- NATAL	ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	MATERNAL MORTALITY	
		(all causes)		LIVE BIRTHS		STILL- BIRTHS			TOTAL								
									No. Regis-tered	Rate per 1000 Popula-tion	No. Regis-tered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regis-tered					Rate per 1000 Live Births	Rate per 1000 legitimate Live Births	Rate per 1000 illegit-imate live births	Rate per 1000 live births	per cent of total live births	No. of Deaths Regis-tered	Rate per 1000 Total Births
Year	...	1965...	645	*13.7	808	*17.1	12	14.6	820	16	19.8	16.6	115	14.9	3.2	—	—
Year	...	1964...	633	13.8	784	17.1	8	10.1	792	15	19.1	17.2	71	10.2	3.5	—	—
1963	...	669	14.8	763	16.9	20	25.5	783	10	13.1	12.1	50	6.6	2.5	—	—	
1962	...	606	13.6	754	16.9	16	20.8	770	17	22.5	23.1	—	18.6	2.5	—	—	
1961	...	626	14.4	703	16.2	11	15.6	714	12	17.1	17.4	58	14.2	2.4	1	1.40	
1960	...	596	14.5	654	15.9	12	18.0	666	18	27.5	28.3	—	22.9	2.7	1	1.50	
Average 5 years: 1960 — 1964		—	14.2	—	16.6	—	18.0	—	—	—	19.8	19.6	36	14.5	—	—	0.58

* Adjusted (live birth-rate; comparability factor, 1.08) } = 18.5 per 1,000
(death-rate; comparability factor, 0.76) = 10.4 per 1,000

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Live Births. The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the Rural Area during the year 1965 number 808 (males 418, females 390); 24 more than in the year 1964.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated home population, corresponds to 17.1 per 1,000, the same as last year. The adjusted birth-rate, using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General, is 18.5. The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1965 was 18.1.

The sex distribution of the children born alive during 1965 is shown below. For comparative purposes, the figures for the previous decade are also given:

Year		Males		Females		Total
1955	.....	282	.....	278	.....	560
1956	.....	280	.....	278	.....	558
1957	.....	302	.....	281	.....	583
1958	.....	282	.....	301	.....	583
1959	.....	319	.....	306	.....	625
1960	.....	326	.....	328	.....	654
1961	.....	341	.....	362	.....	703
1962	.....	364	.....	390	.....	754
1963	.....	417	.....	346	.....	763
1964	.....	394	.....	390	.....	784
1965	.....	418	.....	390	.....	808

EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS

The figure for 1965 is 163, the seventh successive natural increase in the population of the Rural District since all deaths occurring in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution have had to be accepted (i.e., 1st January, 1954). If such deaths are omitted then the natural increase in the population for the period of the last decade is as follows:

Year 1956	.....	121	Year 1961	.....	257
„ 1957	.....	126	„ 1962	.....	294
„ 1958	.....	155	„ 1963	.....	264
„ 1959	.....	233	„ 1964	.....	322
„ 1960	.....	212	„ 1965	.....	369

*Illegitimate Live Births....*The number of births of illegitimate children belonging to the Rural District and recognised during 1965 compared with that of every other year of the last decade is shown below:

Year 1956	.....	10	Year 1961	.....	17
„ 1957	.....	20	„ 1962	.....	19
„ 1958	.....	14	„ 1963	.....	20
„ 1959	.....	16	„ 1964	.....	28
„ 1960	.....	18	„ 1965	.....	26

The number of illegitimate live births at 26 was 7.2 above the average for the past ten years. The percentage figure of total live births at 3.2, however, is below the average yearly figure for the Administrative County during the last decade.

STILLBIRTHS. The number of registered stillbirths assigned to the Rural District during 1965 was twelve (6 male, 6 female), or four more than in the previous year. The resultant rate was 14·6 per 1,000 total births. Expressed per 1,000 of the estimated home population, the Rural District rate was 0·25 compared with a rate for England and Wales of 0·29.

DEATHS. The net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1965 numbered 645 (males 319, females 326). This total includes deaths of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the district, and of persons who died in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution irrespective of their home address.

The death-rate for the Rural District calculated on a home population of 47,190 is 13·7 per 1,000. Last year the death-rate was 13·8. The average death-rate for the five years 1960-1964 was 14·2.

Once again the Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death-rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparative from the mortality point of view with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. The adjusted death-rate using the comparability factor is 10·4 per 1,000 as against last year's adjusted rate of 14·9.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1965 was 11·5 per 1,000 home population.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH. Between 60 and 70 per cent. of all deaths each year are classified to causes falling within three main groups—heart disease, cancer and vascular lesions of the nervous system. The relative importance of these and of other principle causes of death in 1965 is shown in the following table:

Cause of Death	No. of death	Percentage of total deaths
Heart disease (all forms)	243	37·6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	110	17·0
Cancer (including Hodgkin's disease, leukæmia and aleukæmia)	98	15·2
Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Influenza	39	6·0
Other circulatory disease	31	4·8
Violence (including all Accidents, Suicide and Homicide)	26	4·0

Compared with 1964, two changes have occurred in the above order. A small decline in the number of deaths attributable to cancer and an appreciable increase in deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system, has promoted the latter cause to the second position of importance with the former relegated to third position. Deaths from violence are now at the foot of the table of principal causes due to a substantial increase in the number of deaths ascribed to "other circulatory disease."

In the following paragraphs, further details are given of the chief causes of death.

HEART DISEASES. The deaths classified to the heart disease as grouped in the Registrar-General's Short List and assigned to the Rural District in 1965 are shown in the following table, together with the resultant death-rates per 1,000 of the estimated home population and the corresponding figures for the previous five years.

Year	Coronary disease angina			Hypertension with heart disease			other heart disease			Total all forms		
	No. of deaths	Death rate		No. of deaths	Death rate		No. of deaths	Death rate		No. of deaths	Death rate	
1961	...	118	2.71	.....	21	0.48	.....	118	2.71	.....	257	5.91
1962	...	106	2.38	.....	19	0.42	.....	96	2.16	.....	221	4.96
1963	...	138	3.06	.....	26	0.57	.....	135	3.00	.....	299	6.63
1964	...	122	2.65	.....	14	0.30	.....	102	2.21	.....	238	5.10
1965	...	121	2.56	.....	14	0.29	.....	108	2.28	.....	243	5.14

VASCULAR LESIONS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Following upon the decline in the number of deaths from this group of causes in 1964, there was a considerable rise in 1965, the 110 deaths assigned to the Rural District represented a 24% increase in mortality as compared with the previous year. The resultant rate at 2.33 per 1,000 of the estimated home population was 0.40 above the rate for 1964, and the percentage figure of total deaths rose from 14.0 to 17.0.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INCLUDING NEOPLASMS OF LYMPHATIC AND HÆMATOPOIETIC TISSUES.

This group of causes is included in the Registrar-General's Short List under the headings used in the table below, which gives particulars of deaths assigned to the Rural District in 1965 and the previous year by sex:

Classification	1965			1964		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	5	6	11	8	3	11
Lung Bronchus	15	1	16	18	2	20
Breast	—	7	7	—	10	10
Uterus	—	6	6	—	7	7
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	28	28	56	28	28	56
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	2	—	2	1	—	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total—all forms	50	48	98	55	50	105
	—	—	—	—	—	—

There were no significant features in regard to cancer mortality for the year under report except a slight decline in the number of deaths classified to lung cancer and to cancer of the breast and uterus.

Of the total deaths from all causes assigned to the Rural District in 1965, the 98 classified to all forms of cancer represented 15.2 per cent. and were equivalent to a rate of 2.08 per 1,000 of the estimated home population which is more than the average rate for Rural Districts in the Administrative County, but 0.15 less than the rate for England and Wales.

PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS AND INFLUENZA

39 deaths were assigned to this group ; Pneumonia 20, Bronchitis 19. There were no deaths from Influenza for the second year in succession. The 39 recorded deaths were 18 less than the total figure for 1964 and 13 less than the average annual figure of the previous decade. The corresponding figures for 1964 were Pneumonia 30, Bronchitis 27.

OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASE

This classification, which covers all diseases of the circulatory system except heart diseases mentioned earlier, accounted in 1965 for 31 deaths, 14 more than in 1964, and the percentage figure of total deaths rose from 2·7 to 4·8. The mortality rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population was 0·65 compared with rates of 0·37 and 0·44 for 1964 and 1963 respectively.

VIOLENCE

Deaths from violence are divided into four groups in the Registrar-General's Short List of 36 Causes of Death—motor vehicle accidents, all other accidents, suicide and homicide, and operations of war. The deaths thus classified and assigned to the Rural District in 1965 taking them in the same order, were 6, 17, 2 and 1, a total of 26 compared with 24 recorded deaths during 1964. The figures represent small numerical increases in road deaths associated with motor vehicles and deaths occurring from "all other accidents," and an almost compensatory decline in mortality from "suicide."

The following table shows the net deaths actually belonging to the Rural District for the year 1965, distinguishing males and females and at different periods of life, and the causes of death agree with the Short List of 36 Causes of Death based on the Sixth Revision of International Lists (introduced 1950), subject to the amendment that Pneumonia (490-493) now includes also Pneumonia of the newborn (763).

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	4 weeks		Age in years								
			Under 4 weeks	and under 1 year	1	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75 & over
1. Tuberculosis— respiratory	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
2. Tuberculosis— other	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
4. Diphtheria	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
11. Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus	M	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	6	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	4 weeks		Age in years								
			Under 4 weeks	and under 1 year	1	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	75 & over
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	M	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	10	9
	F	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	9	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	3
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
17. Vascular Lesions of nervous sysem	M	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	10	15	22
	F	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	20	31
18. Coronary disease angina	M	67	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	22	21	15
	F	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	9	18	24
19. Hypertension with heart disease	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
20. Other heart disease	M	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	13	27
	F	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	7	46
21. Other circulatory disease	M	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	8
	F	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	10
22. Influenza	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	M	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3
	F	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	8
24. Bronchitis	M	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	5	8
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	M	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	26	3	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	4	4	8
	F	28	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	8	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	M	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	M	12	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	4
	F	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
35. Suicide	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	319	8	3	3	1	1	6	8	23	62	88	116
	F	326	4	1	1	—	2	2	2	14	46	85	169

INFANT MORTALITY

The deaths of infants under the age of one year numbered 16 (males 11, females 5) representing an increase of 7 per cent. compared with 1964. About three-quarters of the infant deaths occurred during the first four weeks after birth. Associated with the rise in total live births, they were equivalent to a rate of 19·8 per 1,000, identical to the average rate for Rural Districts in the Administrative County over the past five years, and to the rate for the Administrative County as a whole. The rate for England and Wales for 1965 was 19·0.

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1965 of infants at stated age periods:

Causes of Death.	DAYS											MONTHS											Total Deaths under one year
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14	21-28	28-56	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-12		
Congenital Malformations	...	I	I	I	I	4
Pneumonia	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	
Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Birth Injuries	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Other Diseases peculiar to early Infancy	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
All other causes	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	I	...	I	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	6
Totals	...	5	I	2	...	I	I	...	2	...	I	...	I	...	I	...	...	...	I	...	...	16

NEO-NATAL, EARLY NEO-NATAL AND PERINATAL MORTALITY.

The Registrar-General, in addition to supplying particulars of neo-natal mortality (deaths of infants under four weeks of age), has also supplied information as to the deaths of infants under one week of age (early neo-natal mortality) and has also included the perinatal mortality rate, i.e., the number of still-births, and early neo-natal deaths over the total live and still births.

The number of infant deaths occurring under the age of four weeks expressed as a percentage of the total mortality rose from 53 in 1964 to 75 in the year under review. The neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births at 14.9 was 0.4 more than the average annual rate for the preceding five years and 1.9 above the rate for England and Wales. The early neo-natal mortality rate was 12.4 per 1,000 live births, and the perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births 26.8.

There were no maternal deaths recorded during 1965.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Infectious cases are removed to the Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston, and transport arrangements are satisfactory in all respects.

In reviewing the prevalence of notifiable diseases and non-notifiable acute infectious diseases, it is interesting to record, first of all, that diphtheria and small-pox have once again failed to appear in the register of notifications. The former has been absent from the Rural District for 15 consecutive years and the latter for 36.

MEASLES (excluding rubella). After the comparatively high incidence of this disease in the previous year, some reduction was to be expected in 1965. In fact the number of notifications declined from 649 to 224.

WHOOPING COUGH. Only one case occurred compared with 22 in 1964. Altogether 41 cases have been recorded during the past five years as against 180 during the period 1956-1960.

SCARLET FEVER. The 20 notified cases of this disease were 16 less than the total for 1964 and 12 less than the average annual figure of the preceding five years. According to local reports, no death classifiable to this cause occurred.

DYSENTERY. 45 notifications were received, the bulk of them constituting an outbreak of "Sonne Dysentery" amongst children at a village school, which occurred towards the end of the year. The usual exhaustive enquiries were made and faeces specimens taken from all patients and family contacts, etc., A number of adults were also involved, including two food handlers, who were temporarily excluded from work. Generally speaking, the severity of the illness was mild and patients quickly recovered normal health.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS. A single case occurred at Ribchester of the paralytic type. The patient was admitted to Park Lee Hospital, Blackburn and, subsequently, recovered normal health without functional limitations.

ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS. It is rare for a case to occur amongst the resident population of the Rural District, but 1965 was an exception. Two post-infectious cases were reported—one concerned a male infant aged 15 months, who was admitted to hospital, but subsequently died; the other, a boy aged 4, was admitted to hospital and eventually discharged quite well.

GENERAL. In addition to investigating outbreaks of notifiable diseases the District Inspectors are often called upon to investigate cases of non-notifiable acute infectious diseases (e.g., Infective Hepatitis or Epidemic Jaundice as it is more commonly known, and ill-defined sickness and diarrhoea). Cases of the former occurred at Lea and Samlesbury and of the latter at Barton, Broughton, Grimsargh and Penwortham.

NOTIFICATIONS. The table below shows the number of infectious and other notifiable diseases notified during the year 1965 after corrections subsequently made either by notifying medical practitioners or by the medical superintendent of the local infectious diseases hospital.

**Notification of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases (after correction)
for the year ended 31st December, 1965, analysed by age**

Notifiable diseases	Total Cases Notified.											Total Deaths
	Total Cases at all ages.	Age Periods—Years.										
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over	Age unknown	
Scarlet Fever	20			2	2	4	12	—	—		—	
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	1								1			
Non-paralytic	—											
Measles (excluding rubella)	224	5	27	46	32	31	74	5	3	—	1	
Diphtheria	—											
Dysentery	45	—	1	1	2	—	8	5	5	6	17	
Meningococcal Infection	—						—					
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—											
		0-	5		15		45		65 and over		Age unknown		1
Acute Pneumonia (prim & infl'zal)	—											
Smallpox	—											
Acute Encephalitis Infective	—											
Post-infectious	2	2										
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—											
Paratyphoid Fevers	—											
Erysipelas	1	—	—		—		1					
Food Poisoning	6	2			1		2				1	
Tuberculosis Respiratory	10	—	—		6		3		1			
Meninges & C.N.S.	—	—	—		—		—		—			
Other	—	—			—		—		—			
Puerperal Pyrexia	1				1							3

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1965, and for comparison the totals for the preceding four years are given:

Townships.	Scarlet Fever		Dysentery		Measles		Whoop'g Cough	
	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.
Barton ...	...	...	6	1	4	..	...	...
Broughton	...	...	...	...	4	..	...	...
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Farington	5	...	...	...	21	...	...	...
Goosnargh	...	...	19	1	5	...	...	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton	...	...	...	...	20	1	...	...
Lea ...	2	...	7	...	37	...	...	...
Little Hoole	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Longton	...	...	...	...	60	...	...	...
Much Hoole	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Penwortham	5	...	2	...	41	...	1	...
Ribchester	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Samlesbury	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	...
Whittingham	5	...	6	2	4	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	1	...	4	...	10	...	...	...
1965 TOTAL ...	20	...	45	4	224	1	1	...
1964 TOTAL ...	36	3	15	...	649	...	22	...
1963 TOTAL ...	16	8	21	4	349	...	17	...
1962 TOTAL ...	23	10	146	10	474	...	...	...
1961 TOTAL ...	30	17	79	19	340	...	1	...

TUBERCULOSIS

The scheme for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis in the Administrative County is administered by the Lancashire County Council and the Manchester Region Hospitals Board respectively.

A number of dispensaries are provided for the diagnosis of the disease, staffed by Chest Physicians and Tuberculosis Health Visitors. These dispensaries work in close association with the Sanatoria, and serve a valuable purpose in the main essence of supervision of patients after their discharge therefrom.

The dispensary for patients residing in the Rural District is situated at Sharoe Green Hospital, Fulwood.

The first table below gives in certain specified age groups the male and female notified cases of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis in the year 1965, together with the deaths therefrom.

The second table gives a comparison with the previous five years, but excludes age distribution.

Age Periods. Years	NEW Cases.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 ..	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
55 ...	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
75 and upwards	2	..	...	...	1	..	...	...
Totals ...	7	5	..	...	2	1	...	...
	12		...		3		...	

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1965	7	5	—	—	2	1	—	—
1964	7	4	—	—	2	1	1	—
1963	10	4	1	—	1	—	—	—
1962	16	5	1	1	4	—	—	—
1961	8	7	—	—	—	2	—	—
1960	6	5	2	1	1	—	—	1

The 12 new cases added to the register during the year could be classified as occurring amongst (1) permanent residents 8, (2) residents of Whittingham Hospital 4.

Removals from the register numbered 9 ; 7 patients died, 1 recovered, and 1 patient was transferred to another administrative area.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

The following report combines figures related to surveys carried out at Hutton, Penwortham and Ribchester by the Mass Radiography Unit of the Manchester Regional Hospitals Board during 1965:

	Males	Females	Total
Number X-rayed	1,193	1,423	2,616
<i>Abnormalities Discovered:</i>			
Tuberculosis requiring treatment	1	—	1
Bronchial carcinoma	1	—	1
Healed tuberculosis	7	10	17
Non-malignant neoplasm	1	—	1
Cardio-vascular lesions acquired	2	6	8
Cardio-vascular lesions congenital	—	1	1
Pneumoconiosis	1	—	1
Pulmonary fibrosis	—	1	1
Bronchiectasis	2	4	6
Pleural thickening	2	—	2
Pneumonitis	—	1	1
Acquired abnormalities of bony thorax & soft tissues	2	—	2

National Assistance Act, 1948.

(Section 47)

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Amendment) ACT, 1951

Number of applications made during the year Nil
Number of Orders made Nil

SCHOOLS

There are 39 schools in the Rural Area providing facilities for both primary and secondary education, and the sanitary circumstances prevailing at these schools are categorised below, viz.:

No. of schools with fresh water closets	38
No. of schools with chemical closets	1
No. of schools with drainage to public sewers	23
No. of schools with drainage to private treatment works	15
No. of schools with dustbins	39
No. of schools with water supply from public mains	39
No. of schools with satisfactory drinking facilities	39
No. of schools with satisfactory washing facilities	37
No. of schools with satisfactory yard surfaces	36

NEW LEGISLATION

The following legislation, inter alia, came into force during 1965, except where otherwise stated:

Housing (Slum Clearance Compensation) Act, 1965.

New Towns Act, 1965.

Public Health (Notifications of Births) Act, 1965.

Rent Act, 1965.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1965.

Town and Country Planning (Industrial Development Certificates Exemption) Order, 1965.

Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1965.

Housing (Prescribed Forms) (Amendment) Regulations, 1965.

Local Government (Allowances to Members) Regulations, 1965.

Town and County Planning (Use Classes) (Amendment) Order, 1965.

Town and County Planning General Development (Amendment) Order, 1965.

Town and County Planning (Control of Advertisements) (Amendment) Regulations, 1965.

Local Government (Compensation) (Amendment) Regulations, 1965.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1965.

Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) Regulations, 1965.

Local Government (Conferences) Regulations, 1965.

Rating (Charitable Institutions) Order, 1965.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 (Exemption No. 3) Order, 1965.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

The first table below contains the prescribed information referred to in paragraph 8(c) of Circular No. 1/66 issued by the Ministry of Health on January 11th, 1966.

The second table illustrates the effective use which has been made of the Food Hygiene Regulations by showing the nature of the improvement works secured by the District Public Health Inspectorate and the number of food premises involved:

(1)

Type of food premises or trade	Total No. of premises	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Butcher	28	28	28	28
Grocer	100	100	100	100
Baker & Confectioner	12	12	12	12
Sweets	23	23	21	21
Greengrocer	18	18	18	18
Fish & Chips	11	11	11	11
Licensed premises	58	58	58	58
Cafes	18	18	18	18
Fish Merchant	2	2	2	2
Confectioner	13	13	13	13
Chemist	5	5	5	5
Wines & Spirits	1	1	1	1
Pickles & Onions	1	1	1	1
Brewery	1	1	1	1
Egg Packer	4	4	3	3
Canteen	54	54	54	54
Poultry establishment	30	30	30	30
Totals	379	379	376	376

(2)

Nature of Work	No. of premises
Installation of wash basin with hot and cold water supplies and toilet requisites	102
Installation of sink with hot and cold water supplies and washing utensil requisites	33
Provision of hot water supply to sink or wash basin	20
Repairs and improvements to premises and fixtures	92
Cleansing of premises	42
Provision of adequate ventilation	35
Provision of first-aid equipment	20
Provision of suitable food store	11
Provision of storage accommodation for utensils	6

The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council's (General Powers) Act, 1961, are as follows:

Type of Business	Act	No.
Ice Cream,	Section 16, F. and D., 1955	157
Preserved food, etc.	ditto	9
Hawkers' premises	Section 14, L.C.C. Act, 1951	23

One hundred and fifty-five of the ice cream premises are used for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

CONTAMINATED FOOD

There has been a recent increase in the number of complaints received of food unfit for human consumption, but this would appear to be due to the public being less inclined to accept contaminated food rather than an actual increase in the amount of unfit food offered for sale. The most common complaints investigated have been those relating to foreign bodies in milk bottles, contaminated bread, and pies affected by mould.

The practice on receiving a genuine complaint is to write to the manufacturing firm concerned and invite their representative to attend at the Council Offices to discuss the matter. All the representatives interviewed during 1965 were most helpful and the highest possible degree of co-operation was forthcoming.

CASES OF FOOD POISONING

Six single cases of food poisoning have been notified compared with one in the previous year. The organism responsible was identified in three instances as "salmonella typhi murium" and in one as "salmonella stanley." The incidence figures for the previous decade are given below:

1964	.....	1	1959	.....	12
1963	.....	2	1958	.....	8
1962	.....	2	1957	.....	5
1961	.....	82	1956	.....	18
1960	.....	7	1955	.....	11

In addition to the notified cases, there were a number of instances of salmonellosis occurring as a result of cross infection from farm animals. A case of salmonellosis occurring on a farm constitutes a serious health hazard, especially if another member of the household is employed elsewhere as a food handler, and often requires an extensive investigation to be carried out of potential sources of infection (i.e., farm animals, feeding stuffs, milk supply). One such investigation concerned a farmer and his two sons who were found to be infected with the organism "salmonella typhi murium." The results of laboratory tests disclosed that three calves were infected by this organism as well as some calf milk powder.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following table shows the numbers of certain classes of animals killed in the Rural Area during 1965, together with the number and result of the inspections carried out.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	202	28	..	698	8	...
Number inspected	202	28	...	698	8	...
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	35	7	...	52	...	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17	25	...	7	12½	...
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	..	..	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	..	...	...	...	..	...
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	..
Generalised and totally con- demned ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...

The unsold carcase meat, approximately 6 cwts. in weight, was burnt at the slaughterhouse.

The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption at shops, etc., was 1¾ cwts. and wherever possible the unsound food was diverted for animal feeding.

Powers exist for food which is not in a sound and wholesome condition to be seized and taken before a magistrate for condemnation. It was not necessary to take such action during 1965 because the purveyors concerned voluntarily surrendered the food which was unfit for human consumption for a certificate issued by the District Public Health Inspector, which enables them to obtain credit from the firm who supplied the food.

SAMPLING—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Samples were taken by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department, which is the authority responsible for the administration of the Act in this respect. Given below are the particulars of the sampling and the results.

A total of 247 samples was obtained, comprising 168 milks (24 of which were Channel Islands milk) and 79 others as follows:

1 Rice	3 Beef Sausage
2 Tapioca	1 Sauce
3 Custard Powder	2 Lard
3 Mustard Compound	1 White Pepper
2 Table Jelly	1 Salad Cream and Lemon Juice
1 Self Raising Flour	1 Special Full Cream, condensed milk (sweetened)
1 Rock, raspberry	1 Arrowroot
1 Syrup	1 Prodexin Tablets
1 Dripping	1 Barley
4 Bacon	1 Condensed Full Cream Milk (unsweetened)
1 Deviled Spam Spread (canned)	1 Pickled Red Cabbage.
1 Ground Nutmeg	1 Jam
1 Castor Oil, B.P.	1 Separated Milk Powder
1 Meat (canned)	1 Tongue Spread
2 Butter	1 Apples
2 Bread	1 Grapes
2 Pork Luncheon Meat (canned)	1 Mushrooms (loose)
1 Dried Thyme	1 Plums (fresh)
1 Dried Mint	1 Damsons (fresh)
1 Mixed Herbs	1 Rice
1 Dried Parsley	1 Cream (sterilised)
1 Mineral Water	2 Whisky
1 Pineapple juice (sweetened)	2 Gin
1 Mint Creams	1 Brandy
1 Peanuts (milk chocolate coated)	1 Rum
1 Chewing Gum	1 Teething Powder
3 Ice Cream	1 Marmalade
1 Honey	1 Soup (canned)
1 Saccharin Tablets	1 Beef Suet
1 Flavouring Material (coloured)	
1 Peaches (part can)	

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 formal milk	Contained 0.5 I.U. penicillin per ml.	Producer & M.M.B. notified.
1 formal milk*	Contained 0.08 I.U. penicillin per ml.	Producer & M.M.B. notified.
1 formal milk	Deficient of 3.3% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	Producer informed.
1 formal milk	Deficient of 11.5% solids-not-fat and the freezing point indicated the presence of 6.7% extraneous water.	Farmer cautioned (Appeal - to - Cow samples also taken.
1 peaches (part can)	Contained insect fragments corresponding to approximately 9 fruit flies and also contained a living moth larva belonging to the group known as "Loopers" which are not normally associated with food infestation.	Complainant informed and suppliers communicated with.
1 informal milk	Deficient of 11.6% fat.	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained.
1 informal milk*	Deficient of 5.0% fat.	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained.
1 informal milk	Contained 0.08 I.U. penicillin per ml.	Producer & M.M.B. notified.
1 informal milk*	Contained 0.1 I.U. penicillin.	Dairy informed.
1 informal milk	Contained 0.05 I.U. penicillin per ml.	Dairy informed.

(*Channel Islands)

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTERATION OF SAMPLES OF FOOD AND DRUGS

Year	Total No. of samples	No. of adulterated samples	Percentage of adulteration
1961	242	11	4.5
1962	232	6	2.6
1963	275	15	5.4
1964	243	13	5.3
1965	247	10	4.0

Water Supplies

The two major sources of water distribution in the Rural District are the Preston & District and Fylde Water Boards, who supply 37,700 and 9,000 water consumers respectively. Both supplies are controlled at source by both chemical and bacteriological tests not only of raw water but, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply. In addition, routine sampling from domestic taps in the various townships was carried out by Officers of the Council, and one sample was found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory. The Board concerned was immediately informed and a follow-up sample produced an excellent report. The two supplies are not liable to plumbo-solvent action, and the fluoride content is 0.05 p.p.m. for the Preston water and less than 0.1 p.p.m. for Fylde water. The quality and quantity of the public water supplies is generally good. During the year under review, piped supplies were laid on to a Boy Scouts Camp and a number of farms in the Beacon Fell area of Goosnargh and the Dutton water scheme, referred to in the 1964 Report, was almost completed.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the water situation in the various townships. Where houses are not receiving a laid-on supply, the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains:

Parish	No. of houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1965		From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, <i>e.g.</i> wells, springs, etc.	
			Direct to houses		By means of standpipe			
	Existing houses	New houses	No. of dwelling houses	Estimtd. No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population
Barton	37	589	1723	...	...	...	...
Broughton	4	181	542	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale	10	45	...	...	...	...
Dutton	1	14	43	...	...	52	157
Farington	43	1536	4561	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh ...	9	1	276	1054	...	...	41	122
Grimsargh	3	291	884	...	...	...	...
Haighton	66	245	...	...	1	3
Hothersall	41	159	...	...	...	...
Hutton	62	778	2107	...	...	...	...
Lea	69	1176	3656	...	...	4	12
Little Hoole	15	315	825	...	...	...	...
Longton	108	2011	5504	...	...	...	...
Much Hoole	78	351	1028	...	...	2	7
Penwortham	42	5591	16121	...	...	...	...
Ribchester	16	475	1360	...	...	8	25
Samlesbury	9	377	1184	...	...	4	12
Whittingham	16	541	4038	...	...	1	4
Woodplumpton	13	587	1766	...	...	1	3
TOTAL Whole District	9	517	15206	46845	...	...	114	345

Housing

The following table categorises the present position with regard to the Housing Waiting List, and gives the number of applicants in each locality, the type of accommodation required, and the number of agricultural applicants.

Parish	Houses	Flats	Total
Barton and Broughton	3	2	5
Farington	14	14	28
Goosnargh	3	1	4
Grimsargh	5	—	5
Lea	7	1	8
Hoole	2	1	3
Longton and Hutton	10	9	19
Penwortham	37	54	91
Ribchester	8	—	8
Samlesbury	2	3	5
Whittingham	4	—	4
Woodplumpton	1	1	2
<hr/>			
Total on General List	96	86	182
Total of agricultural applicants	13	—	13
<hr/>			
Grand Total	109	86	195

During the year under review the number of applicants on the Housing Waiting List rose from 96 to 195, although 75 families were rehoused in existing Council dwellings, which became vacant, and 16 families in new Council dwellings, which were completed. The rate of annual voids at 5.1 per cent. was 1.5 higher than the rate for 1964 and 1.3 higher than the average annual rate of recent years.

The principal demand now is for housing accommodation of a special character (i.e., two-bedroomed flats, one-bedroomed bungalows, and special housing units with Communal Centre and Warden's accommodation for aged persons).

The Council's four-year programme for the period 1965/68 submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government provides for 140 special units to be built in various parishes, including a scheme comprising 30 one-bedroomed bungalows with Communal Centre and Warden's accommodation in the parish of Longton.

The demand for smaller units of accommodation is not altogether accurately illustrated by the Housing Waiting List, as there is a growing number of Council tenants residing in three-bedroomed houses who have applied to be transferred to either two-bedroomed flats or one-bedroomed bungalows. This type of request comes from middle-aged couples whose children have married and left home and persons living alone who have lost their husband or wife as the case may be. Only a very limited number of transfers have taken place in recent years as accommodation of the type required rarely becomes available, but completion of the Council's present four-year building programme should go a long way towards dealing with this problem.

NEW HOUSING

The following table shows the number and situation of new houses which were erected and gives a comparison with the previous year:

Parish	1965			1964		
	Private enterprise	Council	Total	Private enterprise	Council	Total
Barton	21	16	37	62	15	77
Broughton	4	—	4	1	—	1
Cuerdale	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutton	1	—	1	—	—	—
Farington	43	—	43	21	—	21
Goosnargh	1	—	1	1	—	1
Grimsargh	3	—	3	10	—	10
Haighton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hothersall	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hutton	62	—	62	82	—	82
Lea	69	—	69	27	—	27
Little Hoole	15	—	15	21	—	21
Longton	108	—	108	247	—	247
Much Hoole	78	—	78	6	—	6
Penwortham	42	—	42	70	—	70
Ribchester	16	—	16	15	—	15
Samlesbury	9	—	9	6	—	6
Whittingham	16	—	16	22	—	22
Woodplumpton ..	13	—	13	43	—	43
Totals	501	16	517	634	15	649

695 applications for proposed works were considered under the Council's Building Byelaws and approved, and 981 applications in connection with all forms of development were dealt with under the Town and Country Planning Acts in the following manner:

Classified as " Permitted Development "	397
Permission granted	422
Permission refused	140
Deferred	7
Application withdrawn	15

The number of inhabited houses now stands at 15,320, and the following table analyses this total by age:

Not more than 10 years old	3957
Between 10 and 20 years old	2238
Between 20 and 30 years old	1803
Between 30 and 40 years old	3438
Between 40 and 50 years old	1376
Over 50 years old	2508

HOUSING PROGRESS — 1945 to 1965

The following Tables show (1) schemes completed, (2) schemes in progress, and (3) schemes contemplated:

(1)	Scheme	No. of dwellings
	Penwortham and Farington	22
	Woodplumpton	16
	Lea	40
	Woodville Street, Farington	12
	School Street, Farington	10
	Penwortham	52
	Barton	40
	Samlesbury	16
	Grimsargh	22
	Woodplumpton	8
	Little Hoole	24
	Much Hoole	24
	Goosnargh	28
	Longton	29
	Ribchester	22
	Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—1st Contract	80
	New Longton	36
	Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—2nd Contract	38
	Coote Lane, Farington—1st Contract	18
	Airey Rural Houses	84
	Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—3rd Contract	36
	Nabs Head Lane, Samlesbury	30
	Stanifield Lane, Farington	28
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	50
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	50
	Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—4th Contract	80
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract	54
	Coote Lane, Farington—2nd Contract	106
	Studholm Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	76
	Studholm Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	58
	Shops and Flats, Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham	6
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—4th Contract	54
	Studholme Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract	29
	Woodplumpton	10
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—5th Contract	54
	Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—6th Contract	76
	Barton—Special Unit for Aged Persons	31
	Total	1,449

(2)	Constructed by	Completed	Dwellings Under Construction	Not yet Started
	Penwortham—Studholme Contract No. 4	—	18	4
	Sycamore Contract No. 5	—	20	4

(3)	No. of dwellings
Farington—Agricultural Dwellings	4
Longton—Special Accommodation	30

OVERSPILL

Altogether, 312 houses and flats have been erected in the Kingsfold Development Area in the parish of Penwortham and occupied by overspill population from the Preston C.B.

OTHER HOUSING

In addition to Council houses, houses have been constructed by the Lancashire County Council, Ministry of Works, Kingsway Housing Association (formed by The English Electric Co.), Manchester Regional Hospital Board, and Private Builders.

As far as other housing is concerned, the position at the 31st December, 1965, was as follows:

		Dwellings Under	Not yet
	Completed	Construction	Started
Lancashire County Council	126	—	—
Ministry of Works	208	—	—
Kingsway Housing Association	250	—	—
Blackburn C.B.	2	—	—
Preston C.B.	1	—	—
Manchester Regional Hospitals Board	15	—	—
Private Builders	4082	272	201
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	4684	272	201
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

UNFIT HOUSES

A comprehensive statement on the Council's provisional slum clearance programme is included in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report, and in order to avoid repetition, the statistics produced hereafter relate only to the year under review.

Houses demolished

1. In clearance area	Nil
2. Not in clearance areas.....	2
3. No. of displaced persons re-housed	9

Unfit houses closed

1. Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1), & 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	1
2. No. of displaced persons re-housed	1

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied

1. After informal action by local authority	21
2. After formal notice under—	
(a) Public Health Acts	4
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	1

Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957)

1. No. of houses at the end of the year retained for temporary accommodation under Section 48, 17 (2) and 46	Nil
2. No. of houses licensed for temporary occupation under sections 34 or 53	Nil

Purchase of houses by agreement

No. of houses in clearance areas, other than those included in confirmed clearance orders or compulsory purchase orders, purchased during the year	Nil
--	-----

Houses improved by grant aid under the Housing Act, 1949, etc.

Number of schemes submitted—

1. By local authority to Ministry	Nil
2. By private individuals to the local authority	12
(a) No. of schemes completed during the year	10
(b) Additional separate dwellings included in the completed schemes	12

Houses provided with certain standard amenities under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

No. of schemes submitted to the local authority	57
No. of schemes approved	56
No. of schemes completed during the year	41

Sewage Disposal

There are outfall works in five townships, viz.: Barton, Farington, Longton, Penwortham and Ribchester. In addition, Grimsargh and areas of Lea and Samlesbury are sewered to outfalls outside the district.

The several comprehensive schemes of sewerage recently completed have greatly improved the sewage situation in the Rural Area, and the following table indicates the present position in the various parishes.

The total population figure of 4,042 for the parish of Whittingham includes some 2,300 patients and resident staff of the Whittingham Hospital, which has its own sewage treatment works. Accordingly, the total population figure given in the right-hand column of the table would be more accurately quoted at 7,770.

Parish	Connected to Public Sewer		Septic Tank, etc.	
	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population
Barton ...	523	1508	66	215
Broughton ...	79	232	102	310
Cuerdale ...	...	...	10	45
Dutton ...	...	...	66	200
Farington ...	1414	4195	122	366
Goosnargh ...	40	151	277	1025
Grimsargh ...	254	762	37	122
Haighton ...	...	...	67	248
Hothersall ...	...	...	41	159
Hutton ...	659	1781	119	326
Lea ...	907	2850	273	818
Little Hoole ...	272	695	43	130
Longton ...	1968	5358	43	146
Much Hoole ...	300	886	53	149
Penwortham ...	5579	16085	12	36
Ribchester ...	337	952	146	433
Samlesbury ...	130	402	251	794
Whittingham ...	318	1010	224	3032
Woodplumpton	85	253	503	1516
TOTAL Whole District	12865	37120	2455	10070

Factories Act, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1965, for the Rural District of Preston in the County of Lancaster

Most of the factories in the Rural Area are of a small character and chiefly consist of those relating to Motor Car Repairs and Confectionery. There are, however, four Cotton Mills at Farington and Ribchester, two Paper Mills at Samlesbury, and two small Iron Foundries at Whittingham. In addition, and in recent times, two large modern and well-equipped factories have been erected at Farington, occupied by Messrs. Leyland Motors Ltd., and the B.T.R. Industries Ltd.

Sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction recorded on the register under Section 1 (iii) of the Report were, with the exception of four established sites at the commencement of the year, complying with the requirements of Section 7.

Prescribed Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961 Part I of the Act

1—INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	115	28	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	23	7	1	—
TOTAL ...	138	35	3	—

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	5	—	1	—

Part VIII—Sections 133 and 134.

Number of Outworkers in August List required by Section 133 (1) (c), 3 Wearing Apparel (making, etc.).

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Chief Public Health Inspector's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting to you my Annual Report on the multifarious duties of the Department, it is pleasing to record that 1965 was a year of progress in many spheres.

References to principal functions are given in the text but, in the current year, such matters as Housing, Offices and Shops legislation and Private Water Supplies, call for more specific comment.

1. HOUSING.

(a) Unfit Houses.

About 16% of the housing accommodation is over 50 years old. These old dwellinghouses require the special attention of your Officers under the provisions of the Housing Acts, and since 1945 just over 1,000 houses have been either demolished, closed, converted to other uses, reconstructed, repaired or improved under the Improvement Grants Scheme.

In accordance with the provisions of Parts II and III of the Housing Act, 1964, which gives local councils power to require the improvement of houses in "Improvement Areas" defined by them, a detailed survey of Goosnargh and Ribchester Villages was undertaken with the following results:

Parish 1	Inspected 2	No. of Houses	
		Below standard 3	Below standard and tenanted 4
Goosnargh	88	29 (or 33%)	11 (or 12½%)
Ribchester	258	116 (or 45%)	30 (or 11%)
Totals	346	145	41

A local authority may only declare an improvement area if (a) one-half of the houses are short of one or more of the standard amenities (bath, basin, hot water supply, W.C. and food store); and (b) are so constructed that it is practicable to improve them up to the full standard and that they are likely to have a life of not less than 15 years. Action within a declared improvement area is limited to tenanted properties. The houses without amenities were not concentrated in any particular parts of the villages surveyed, and it was, therefore, found to be impracticable to declare improvement areas. These surveys did, however, stimulate interest in the improvement grants and considerable progress has been made in this field.

A new and important provision of the Housing Act, 1964, is Section 19, which permits a tenant to require the local authority, in certain circumstances, to serve a notice on the landlord to improve the property by installing the necessary amenities such as bath, hot water supply and internal W.C.

(b) Special Housing Units for Aged Persons.

Two of these special housing units with Communal Centre and Warden's accommodation have already been provided (one in Penwortham in 1959, comprising of 28 one-bedroomed bungalows, and the other in Barton in 1964, comprising of 30 similar bungalows, and a third in the Longton area is included in the Council's four-year housing programme (1965/68).

The majority of the residents are highly appreciative of the housing and social facilities provided and in this connection the Council are fortunate in having two very capable Wardens in Mrs. A. Bramley at Penwortham and Mrs. V. Lloyd at Barton. The dedicated manner in which they carry out their duties often involves them in giving a considerable amount of help outside the normal bounds of their work. It is unfortunate that at Penwortham during the past year the majority of the residents, because of failing health, have been unable to take part in social activities arranged by the Warden. Some of the tenants qualify for accommodation in the County Council Residential Homes, where constant care and attention is available, but the shortage of beds in this type of home limits transfers to exceptional cases.

2. PETROLEUM ACTS

An application was received from Shell Mex and B.P. Ltd., requesting permission to install a coin-operated petrol pump at a garage on the A.6 at Broughton for use by motorists during the hours of darkness. The application stated that it was becoming increasingly difficult to provide a manned night service due to rising wages and a shortage of suitable staff, and that the coin-operated self-service petrol pump was the answer to the problem. After all the relevant technical and other factors associated with the particular garage had been considered the application was refused.

It is felt, however, that this application is only the forerunner of others which will not only be confined to providing a night service.

3. OFFICES AND SHOPS.

An Annual Report on the administration of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, for the period under review has already been circulated but, nevertheless, there are one or two points I would briefly like to comment upon, viz.:

(a) The safety provisions, which constitute a new field for Public Health Inspectors, have, in relation to the safe operation of food machines, important side advantages. Food machinery is being used on a continuously increasing scale and often poses problems of food hygiene. Any extension of duties into this field is particularly desirable as it will result in more attention being given to the construction and use of food machines and this may lead to a closer look at methods of cleansing and the action taken at the premises to eliminate the risk of contamination by foreign bodies.

(b) Some "teething" troubles occurred with the provision of guards to machines but, as more suitable guards and modifications to machines are carried out, current difficulties will be overcome.

4. PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES.

A comprehensive survey by the District Public Health Inspectors of all private water supplies in the area was in progress at the end of the year; over one hundred premises on private supply had been visited, samples taken, field investigations of the source made, and appropriate advice and information given.

The scheme to extend the public water mains to the Parish of Dutton (which was originated by the Council following an earlier report on the very unsatisfactory position regarding the water supply in this area) is almost complete and a public supply will be available for the first time to 35 houses and farms.

A small extension of the Inglewhite water scheme in the Beacon Fell area of Goosnargh was completed, and ten properties, including a Boy Scouts Camp at Brock Bottoms, are now receiving a public supply.

5. PENWORTHAM SEWERAGE

The Council's determined efforts to provide the urgently needed extensive sewerage improvements at Penwortham made slow progress. The programme of obtaining the necessary consents is not unlike a marathon hurdle race. Meanwhile, the present critical position, so far as flooding is concerned, must be faced.

6. NEW DEVELOPMENTS

In the wider field of Environmental Health, two major developments which may affect the Rural District are the possibility of a large new power station in the Longton-Hoole area, and the new town project in the Leyland-Chorley area. Perhaps the combination of the two will present the Minister of Housing and Local Government with a unique opportunity to consider a major district heating scheme.

The ability of the whole of the Department to work enthusiastically as a team was largely responsible for not only routine work being adequately covered but also the initiative being taken in many spheres, including the lighting survey under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, a Housing Survey in connection with improvement areas, and the detailed investigation of all private water supplies.

Efforts to secure the co-operation of farmers in the eradication of brucellosis generally meet with a good response. In addition to samples taken by the District Inspectors, farmers took a large number of individual cow samples and submitted them to the Department for testing (including samples from new additions to the milking herds, this being done to prevent infected cows from being introduced into herds known to be clear of the infection). This arrangement is one which could, with advantage, be more widely publicised as a useful interim measure until such time as a Government eradication scheme is practicable.

In co-operation with the Lancashire County Council and the University of Manchester, assistance was given in the training of Officers from the Governments of Sudan and Nigeria.

In conclusion, I wish to express to the Chairman and members of the Committee my thanks for their continued support and interest in the work of the Department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. BAXTER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS

Inspection of dwelling-houses	214
Insanitary drainage	195
Ditches and Watercourses	77
Middens	4
Dirty conditions of premises	5
Other visits relating to nuisances	432
Infectious disease	308
Verminous premises and persons	1
Waste Foods Order	10
Milk and Dairies	109
National Assistance Act	3
Food premises	274
Shops	179
Factories	55
Caravans	83
Schools	6
Hotels, Inns, etc.	10
Ice-cream premises	16
Hawkers	7
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	40
Housing Acts—Discretionary and Standard Grants	728
Clear Air Act	22
Closet conversions	14
Pet Animals Act	1
Petroleum Act	82
Water supply	78
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	134
Knacker's Yard	6
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	140
Housing applications	19
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	37
Noise Abatement Act	2
Houses in multi-occupation	2
Other visits	371
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	3,664
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NOTICES SERVED

Informal	81
Formal	9

SANITARY DEFECTS DEALT WITH

Dampness	22
Defective Ceilings	3
Defective Closet Pails	2
Defective Closet Structures	1
Defective Doors	8
Defective Floors	6
Defective Gutters	11
Defective Paving	4
Defective Downspouts	4
Defective Roofs	18
Defective Chimneys	5
Defective Pointing	3
Defective Walls	16
Defective Brickwork	6
Defective W.C.s	11
Defective Windows	22
Defective Woodwork	3
Defective Fire Ranges	1
Absence of Washing Facilities	1
Insanitary Drainage	151
Ditches and Watercourses	44
Dirty Condition of Premises	5
Middens	4
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	1
Defective Sinks	2

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Altogether, 272 visits have been made in connection with complaints of insanitary drainage, including fouled ditches and watercourses, and also for the purpose of drain testing. Following discussions with the Management of a Brewery firm in regard to their application for consent to discharge trade effluent into the public sewer, it was agreed that the discharge from the "Barley Steep" should be measured by installing a water meter in the supply pipe, just prior to the take-off to the tank.

12,865 inhabited houses out of a total of 15,320 are connected to the public sewers, and during 1965 there were 500 new houses so connected. At the end of 1965, the position in the Rural District as regards sanitary conveniences belonging to inhabited houses was:

No. of fresh water closets	14,871
No. of waste water closets	87
No. of pail closets	362

The pail closets exist mainly in the outlying parishes and in the scattered areas. The following conversions took place during 1965:

No. of pail closets to fresh water closets	52
No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets	2

SEWAGE TANK CLEANSING SERVICE

Inadequate sludge drying facilities at a number of the Council's Sewage Disposal Works necessitates the use of the special vehicle for removing liquid sludge, particularly during the winter months, and disposing of it on the Refuse Tips, where it is used as a top dressing. In addition to local authority requirements, tanks serving the following premises have been emptied:

Private Houses	298
Council Houses	219
Business premises, including Hotels	24
Schools	9
Factories	6
Knacker's Yard	6

A free service on not more than two occasions per annum is provided for domestic premises. At other premises, income from rechargable work amounted to £194.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

308 visits have been made by the District Public Health Inspectors in connection with the investigation of infectious disease during 1965, 42 more than in the previous year. They were related principally to outbreaks of sonne dysentery, gastro enteritis and infective hepatitis occurring amongst school children.

Terminal disinfection is only carried out when the occupier of any premises requests it and this is generally when children, suffering from scarlet fever, are nursed at home. No such requests were received during the period under review.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

This Act places duties on local authorities to require, in certain circumstances, the provision of sanitary conveniences on farms where workers are employed, and of ensuring that conveniences on such farms, whether or not provided at the authorities' instance, are kept clean.

The general condition of sanitary conveniences at farms and other premises in the Rural District, where workers are employed, is satisfactory. A careful examination is also made of all applications for planning permission for such development as large piggeries, etc., to ascertain whether adequate provision of sanitary and washing accommodation has been made for persons likely to be employed on the premises.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The number of shops on the register rose during 1965 by 20, from 335 to 355, and in accordance with the delegated scheme of duties, 179 inspections were made and reports prepared and submitted to the Lancashire County Council. Infringements of the Act related mainly to the absence of necessary records where young persons were employed.

SWIMMING POOLS

There is a privately owned swimming pool in the district which is open to members of a special organisation.

A chlorination and infiltration plant is installed and is efficiently supervised by trained staff. The water, which is obtained from the public main, is changed every four hours and highly satisfactory bacteriological results have been obtained.

The Council has given preliminary consideration to the provision of a public swimming baths, chiefly for the large urbanised locality of Penwortham, but have decided to defer the matter until the time is more opportune.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act, which is primarily designed to create a better environment for employees in offices and shops, is being fully implemented throughout the Rural District. An annual report covering the period under review has already been prepared and presented to the Council, which includes the prescribed particulars referred to in L.A. Circular 5, issued by the Ministry of Labour, and also a comprehensive narrative outlining the progress already made. At the end of 1965, 186 premises had been registered at which 720 persons were employed. All registered premises have received a general inspection. The effectiveness of the Act will continue to increase as Regulations supplementing its broad requirements continue to be made by the Ministry of Labour.

The practice of keeping employees informed by circular explanatory letters of new Regulations prevents them from committing technical offences (e.g., the omission to display an abstract of the Act or alternatively to give each employee a copy of an explanatory booklet obtained from H.M. Stationery Office).

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 to 1961

The Council's Provisional Slum Clearance Programme, submitted to the Minister on the 11th November, 1955, comprised 266 dwelling-houses, 115 of which it was intended to deal with by way of Clearance Orders and 151 by individual Demolition Orders.

Following representation by certain owners to have their properties removed from the original programme, and after consideration of the representations by the Council, a revised programme was submitted to the Minister on the 21st October, 1958, and approved. The revised programme comprised 201 dwelling-houses, 53 to be dealt with by Clearance Orders and 148 by individual Demolition Orders.

As a result of action already taken by the Council and informal action by certain owners, the present position is as follows:

1. No. of dwelling-houses dealt with formally	134	
2. No. of dwelling-houses dealt with informally ...	34	
	—	168
3. No. of dwelling-houses where action is deferred for special reasons	33	
4. No. of dwelling-houses where action is to be taken	Nil	
	—	33
		—
		201
		—

SLUM CLEARANCE

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Housing Acts, 1936 to 1957.

The following table shows action taken in the various Parishes in the Rural District with regard to slum clearance from 1945 to 1965 inclusive:

PARISH.	HOUSES.						
	Demolished. or closed		Undertakings accepted following formal action.		Voluntary action by owners.		Scheduled for demolition.
	<i>Form- ally.</i>	<i>Inform- ally.</i>	<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>	<i>Re-construction</i>	<i>Re-construction or conversion to other use</i>	<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>	
Barton ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Broughton ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington ...	29	3	1	1	...	...	1
Goosnargh ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Haighton ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall ...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Hutton ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lea ...	9	2	1	1	...	...	...
Little Hoole ...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
Longton ...	35	5	4	6	...	...	...
Much Hoole ...	4	...	...	3	...	1	...
Penwortham ...	47	9	3	3	2	...	1
Ribchester ...	10	...	7	2	...	...	2
Samlesbury ...	9	3	...	1	...	...	1
Whittingham...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Woodplumpton ...	22	5	5	2	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	174	29	24	23	2	1	5

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of new licences granted for storing petrol during the year—2.

No. of renewal licences granted during the year—108.

82 visits have been made in connection with the installation and testing of new storage tanks and the renewal of licences.

CARAVANS

The stationing of residential caravans on unlicensed sites within the Rural District continues to be a problem if the number of visits made by the Public Health Inspectors is compared with the previous year (i.e., 83 as against 71). A further source of trouble was created by teenagers camping on the riverside at Ribchester and pestering nearby residents by begging for food.

22 applications for planning permission (or a renewal of permission) to site residential caravans in the Rural District were dealt with, but only nine received approval, generally for a limited period. No appeal was made against a refusal of planning permission, and no enforcement action was necessary to secure the removal of vans from unlicensed sites.

Two new site licences were issued, one of which was for a permanent site (5.35 acres in extent) to accommodate 78 vans, and altogether 14 licences now remain in force in respect of 113 vans.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 50 — Burial or Cremation of the Dead

Following notification from the Lancashire Constabulary that the body of a newly-born female child had been discovered on the riverside at Penwortham and that they were unable to trace the mother of the child or any other relative, funeral arrangements were made with a local undertaker and the child buried at Preston Cemetery.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

This Act, which came into force on the 1st April, 1965, requires every local authority to maintain a register of persons carrying on business in their area as scrap metal dealers, and registration is by right and not at the discretion of the local authority. The main purpose of the Act is to ensure that accurate records of all purchases and sales are kept by any person dealing in scrap metals. Eleven dealers have so far been registered.

CLEAR AIR

The problem of grit and dust emission from the chimneys of the Penwortham Electricity Generating Station has now been satisfactorily resolved, as far as practicable.

In 1963, following discussions with the Regional Alkali Inspector, extensive alterations and improvements were carried out to the grit-arresting equipment installed at the main "B" Station. After completion of these works, the emission of grit and dust was still on the border line of the target figure, which is an exit burden for this type of Station of below 0.2 grains per cubic foot.

As a result of further discussions, additional equipment was installed and the quantity of grit and dust now emitted is well below the target figure. The total cost of these alterations amounted to approximately £120,000.

THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

The Rural District Council carries out, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, delegated duties under this Order, and regular inspections are made of the 9 licensed premises, particular attention being paid to storage arrangements and general cleanliness.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply—action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations.

At the 31st December, 1965, there were 63 registered milk distributors in the area operating from:

(a) dairies in the district 29

(b) shops in the district other than dairies 34

Six dairies are on the register and their condition is satisfactory.

Milk Sampling

(a) Samples taken for Biological Examination		Results			
Nature of test		Positive	Negative	No result	
(i)	Tuberculosis	—	...	3	—
(ii)	Brucellosis—Ring Test	57	...	360	13
	Culture Test	6	...	12	—
	Biological Test	—	...	3	—

Altogether 453 samples were taken, of which 415 were individual cow samples.

(b) Samples taken for Statutory Tests

Nature of test		No. of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Void samples
Raw Milk:					
(i)	Methylene Blue	7	...	3	—
Heat-treated Milk:					
(i)	Methylene Blue	9	...	8	—
(ii)	Phosphotase	9	...	8	—
(iii)	Turbidity	5	...	5	—

Action taken under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

Sixteen producers were involved in the Brucellosis positive milk ring and culture results. In twelve instances informal arrangements were made for the infected milk supplies to be pasteurised; two producers had the infected animals slaughtered, and in the remaining two cases formal notices were served under Regulation 20, prohibiting the sale of the infected milk for human consumption or the use of it in the manufacture of products for human consumption unless sufficiently heat treated. Where applicable the producers were advised to enlist the services of a Veterinary Surgeon and were assured that the local authority would render all possible assistance, including the taking of individual cow samples.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Licences are in force in respect of 11 establishments situated in the Rural District, providing accommodation for 135 dogs and 96 cats.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1954—58

The Council provided a meat inspection service throughout the year at a small private slaughterhouse in the parish of Farington. 18 Slaughtermen have been licensed to carry out their trade. There is a licensed Knacker's Yard in the district, which dealt with 1,847 animals during 1965, categorised as follows:

Donkeys	2	Sheep	500
Goats	12	Pigs	450
Horses	18	Cattle	845

A substantial number were dead on arrival.

The following figures illustrate the considerable increase in the volume of work undertaken by the Council's Meat Inspectors in recent years:

Year	Number of Animals killed
1961	218
1962	359
1963	1250
1964	1268
1965	936

FOOD PREMISES

274 visits have been made to food premises (including manufacturing premises, canteens, restaurants and hotel kitchens), and 20 informal notices served in connection with contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

155 premises are now registered for the storage and sale of loose or pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district, and, in addition, there are two where ice cream is manufactured and sold.

51 persons now operate as hawkers in the Rural District and have been registered for the purpose. 23 premises have also been registered for the storage of foodstuffs.

Four ice cream samples were taken and tested with satisfactory results.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following is a summary of the foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption:

Description	Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Corned Beef	—	—	—	1	—
Ox Tongue	—	—	—	18	—
Pressed Ham	—	—	1	9	—
Cooked Lambs' Liver	—	—	—	14	—
"Country Garden" Prunes ...	—	—	2	21	—
51 Items of Froozen Foods ...	—	—	1	16	—
Total	—	1	2	23	—

Wherever possible, the condemned foodstuff contained in the above schedule was diverted to animal feeding.

In addition, the number of carcasses of animals inspected at the slaughter-house was :

Cattle (excluding cows)	202
Cows	28
Calves	Nil
Pigs	8
Sheep and Lambs	698

and the following meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption :

- 36 beasts' livers for distomatosis.
- 52 sheeps' livers for parasites.
- 4 beasts' lungs for pleurisy.
- 2 beasts' spleens for congestion.
- 1 beast's kidneys for nephritis.
- 1 pig's carcass and organs for acute fever.
- 1 beast's liver for peritonitis.
- 2 beasts' livers for cirrhosis.
- 4 beasts' livers for abscess.
- 3 beasts' lungs for abscess.
- 1 beast's head and tongue for abscess.

Approximate total weight of meat condemned : 6 cwts.

PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS

The following schedule gives particulars of the Playing Fields provided in the Rural District and an indication of the area in each field available for games :

Situation	Whole area		Area for games		Area let off for Grazing	Ploughing
Barton	5	...	5	...	—	—
Broughton	5	...	5	...	—	—
Church Wood, Penwortham	4½	...	4½	...	—	—
Farington	10	...	5½	...	4½	—
Goosnargh	4½	...	4½	...	—	—
Grimsargh	12	...	12	...	—	—
Hurst Grange, Penwortham.	16½	...	12	...	4½	—
Hutton	7	...	7	...	—	—
Lea	16½	...	4	...	12½	—
Little Hoole	4	...	4	...	—	—
Longton	6	...	6	...	—	—
Much Hoole	5	...	5	...	—	—
New Longton	9	...	9	...	—	—
Queensway, Penwortham ...	5	...	5	...	—	—
Penwortham Hall	18½	...	12½	...	6	—
Tardy Gate	5½	...	5½	...	—	—
Woodplumpton	6½	...	2½	...	4	—
Total	140½	...	109	...	31½	—

RODENT REPORT

STAFF

During the year two rodent operatives were employed.

SEWERS

The practice is to treat 10 per cent. of the manholes on the main sewerage systems twice per year with bags made from open weave stockinette, each containing $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of bait. The bags are suspended in a position immediately above the water line. If evidence of infestation is found, poison treatment is continued until it is cleared. Infestations can invariably be traced to new housing estates where a combination of food scraps left by workmen and open drain connections provides such an ideal combination. Frequent visits to these sites are made in order to secure effective control.

SEWAGE WORKS

The Council's Sewage Works at Barton, Farington, Longton, Penwortham and Ribchester were treated periodically and infestation kept down to a minor level.

TIPS

Three refuse tips were in operation during the year at Grimsargh, Much Hoole and Whittingham, and infestation was kept under control by regular treatment.

PREMISES AND INFESTATION

A routine survey of all premises was carried on throughout the year, and the following figures illustrate the extent of this work and the number of infestations found and dealt with.

1.	Total number of dwelling houses in the district	=	14,331
2.	Total number of agricultural premises	=	1,050
3.	Total number of business premises	=	465
4.	Total number of visits to premises:		
	(a) agricultural—(i) on contract work	=	732
	(ii) on survey inspection	=	90
	(b) dwelling houses	=	345
	(c) business—(i) on contract work	=	42
	(ii) on survey inspection	=	34
5.	Total number of infested premises:		
	(a) agricultural		
	Mice—major	=	2
	minor	=	36
	Rats—major	=	1
	minor	=	331
	(b) dwelling houses		
	Mice—major	=	Nil
	minor	=	23
	Rats—major	=	Nil
	minor	=	32
	(c) business		
	Mice—major	=	1
	minor	=	18
	Rats—major	=	Nil
	minor	=	13

6.	Total number of infestations dealt with:		
	(a) By the local authority—agricultural	=	370
	dwelling houses	=	55
	business	=	32
	(b) By occupiers	=	Nil
7.	Total number of informal notices served on occupiers	=	Nil
8.	Total number of formal notices served on occupiers under Section 4 of the Act	=	Nil
9.	Total number of formal notices of entry served on occupiers under Section 22 of the Act	=	Nil
10.	Total number of occupiers under contract with the local authority	=	175

BAITS AND POISONS

2 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of rat poison were used during the period under review.

CONTRACT SERVICE

The Council's Contract Scheme for pest control is attracting an ever-increasing number of farmers and business undertakings and this should be a feature of future reports as every opportunity is taken to bring it to the notice of people who would benefit from the service. It is vitally important, in this area of north-west Lancashire where poultry-breeding is heavily concentrated, for Local Authorities to ensure that rodent control operates with a high degree of efficiency.

Large scale infestation of hawthorn hedges by the caterpillar of the " Ermine Moth " was again widespread throughout the district, and, in order to assist owners in dealing with it, a suitable insecticide (i.e., Dipterex) for killing the caterpillar was made available in 1oz. containers and approximately 300 were sold. An alternative method of control, which is carried out in December of each year, is to spray hawthorn hedges with a five per cent. tar oil solution to kill the eggs. A limited amount of this work has been carried out, and a three gallon knapsack sprayer used for the purpose.

The Rodent Operatives, apart from exterminating rats and mice on farms and business premises, have had to deal with a new problem of rat infestation of lay-bys on trunk roads where motorists dump particles of waste food in the litter baskets provided or in the adjacent hedgerows.

MOLE CONTROL SERVICE

As a result of a number of farmers experiencing difficulty in clearing heavy infestations of moles, it has been decided to establish a mole control service. One of the Council's Rodent Operatives has been trained in the use of Strychnine poison by the Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and £1 per hour is charged for the time he actually spends on the site. This amount is inclusive of the cost of transport and materials used.

T. BAXTER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



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